

THAME BRIDGE CLUB AGM 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We've had a busy year. We have been in our current premises for nine months and it seems to be working well. At our committee meeting on August 20 we did decide that it would be helpful if we could find somebody to help set up at the start of the evening. I had a word with David Hunt, who is our contact with the Masons, and his granddaughter, Lara, has agreed to come and help us set up. We will be paying her £10 each time.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership remains fairly constant. We currently have 40 paid up members plus two honorary members. Our attempts to attract new members have not been amazingly successful.

1. A group of us, Jean IJ, Jean W, Margaret O, Linda B and myself manned a table at the Town Hall Games Fair earlier in the year to make people aware of Thame Bridge Club. We took along a table and equipment and played a game of Bridge for people to watch. We didn't attract any new members to come and play, but we did get a list of over 12 people wanting to learn to play.
2. We invited local Bridge clubs to join us for our Christmas session which they all enjoyed so the awareness of our Club is now there.
3. I organised an improvers workshop last October which was very well attended. I made a small profit for the club as well which was a bonus.

From my Bridge teaching, which I started nearly two years ago I have 12 people who now can play an acceptable, albeit slow, game of Bridge. They are loving playing Bridge! However, they would not be able to come to Thame Bridge Club yet. It was suggested at the committee meeting of 20th of August that we had an evening whereby we could invite some of them to come along to Thame Bridge Club and play with some of our more experienced players. However, committee members felt that we needed to discuss this with existing members before we implemented anything.

I have already taken my students to sessions at Long Crendon Bridge Club and Haddenham Bridge Club where existing members were happy to play with students on those occasions. The students also go to Wallingford Bridge Club on a Monday afternoon where they play 12 boards very happily. They would not be able to play 21 or 24 boards in an evening.

COMMUNICATION

We have established four means of communication for Club members. I think most members have email and I think quite a lot of people are okay with WhatsApp. Those who aren't and need a partner have Barbara Walker's telephone as a contact person.

- 1 Keith manages our website and keeps it up-to-date so that at any time people can login and see their results, but also to see any situations that arise that can mean changes of Club nights et cetera.
- 2 Keith is also responsible for sending out all user emails. These are sent out when there are any changes that we need people to know about fairly quickly. For example if the club is closed because of bad weather or illness.
- 3 Elena set up a WhatsApp group for those people wanting to find partners, but we also will put on the WhatsApp group any information that we want people to access fairly quickly.
- 4 Telephone - Barbara Walker if you need a partner. Telephone any member of the committee if you want to ask a question or you need information.

TRAINING

Would any club member be interested in training to become a Director for our club sessions. Paul Morris, who has directed for us since we reopened, now has teaching commitments on a Monday evening so will be unable to direct. It would be good to have another person trained to be able to do this. Please let us know if you would be interested in this.

Jean Ingham Johnson and Barbara Jordan are now both accredited Ebu bridge teachers having completed the training course last autumn. If any other member would be interested in training to teach, please let us know.

TABLE MONEY

it was decided at the committee meeting of August 20 that table money **could** now be reduced back to £3 per session. Because we are in a new venue we are not making a loss every session. The annual membership of £10 will remain the same.

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

I have held this office for three years. Thame Bridge Club reopened and has been functioning well in those three years.

We have found premises that we can afford to play in and we have welcomed in a few new members. I feel that now is the time for someone else, to take it on for the next year or so. I have a lot of family commitments coming up and I also plan to give more time to teaching Bridge, so now is the time for a new chairman with some new ideas. I think he/she will be helped by the fact that our first three years have been very positive years, where the basics of a good club have been formed.

Thank you very much to Keith and Jean for dealing the boards for each session.

Thank you very much to Keith, Jean, Paul, and Tim for their directing during the year
thank you, Gill for your excellent job as treasurer.

Thank you to all the committee members.

And finally thank you to all of you, the members for being so supportive and helpful during the year.

Barbara Jordan
(Chairman)